

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 17 as follows:

When the reset signal 201 is driven Low, the ring oscillator 111 starts its operation at an oscillating frequency determined by the delay time of an odd number of inverter stages. In the event of a halt of oscillation assumed in case the input/output of the odd number of inverter stages has reached an intermediate potential, the return pulse S4 is applied to the start pulse application circuit 216 via the OR circuit ~~[[218]]~~ 217 to restart the ring oscillator 111.